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Southwest Florida Water Management District

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August 25, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM:  Martin H. Kelly, Ph.D., Minimum Flows and Levels Program Director
Resource Projects Department

SUBJECT: Public Input Meetings for Update to Schedule for Establishment of
Minimum Flows and Levels

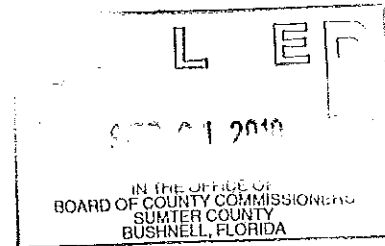
The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) invites your participation in the process to update its Priority List and Schedule for the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs). MFLs are the limits set by the District Governing Board for surface waters and groundwater intended to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of an area caused by withdrawals.

Public meetings have been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, October 4, 2010 at the District's Bartow Office (170 Century Blvd.)
- Monday, October 4, 2010 at the Brooksville Headquarters (2379 Broad Street)
- Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at the District's Sarasota Office (6750 Fruitville Rd)
- Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at the District's Tampa Office (7601 Hwy. 301 N.)

The purpose of these meetings is to receive input on the revised Priority Schedule for the establishment of MFLs. The draft 2011 List will be made available on the District's web site as soon as possible following the Governing Board's September 28th Board Meeting. We have attached the current year priority list for your review. Written comments are also welcome and can be submitted to Dr. Martin Kelly, Program Director, Minimum Flows and Levels, via mail or e-mail (marty.kelly@swfwmd.state.fl.us) no later than October 15, 2010.

This process represents an important opportunity for local governments, citizens and others to be part of the scheduling of minimum flows and levels for rivers, streams and other flowing waters, lakes and aquifers. Please contact Dr. Martin Kelly, or Barbara Matrone, of the Ecologic Evaluation Section (extension 4233) if you have questions or need additional information.



BOARD APPROVED 2010
MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS PRIORITY LIST AND SCHEDULE

Minimum Flows and Levels Already Adopted

- Alafia River (upper freshwater segment)
- Alafia River Estuary (includes Lithia and Buckhorn Springs)
- Braden River (freshwater segment)
- Citrus County Lakes – Ft. Cooper, Tsala Apopka – Floral City, Inverness and Hernando Pools
- Hernando County Lakes – Hunters, Lindsey, Mountain, Neff, Spring and Weekiwachee Prairie
- Highland County Lakes – Angelo, Anoka, Denton, Jackson, Little Lake Jackson, June-in-Winter, Letta, Lotela, Placid, Tulane, and Verona
- Hillsborough County Lakes – Alice, Allen, Barbara, Bird, Brant, Calm, Charles, Church, Crenshaw, Crescent, Crystal, Cypress, Dan, Deer, Dosson, Echo, Ellen, Fairy [Maurine], Garden, Halfmoon, Harvey, Helen, Hobbs, Horse, Jackson, Juanita, Little Moon, Merrywater, Mound, Platt, Pretty, Rainbow, Reinheimer, Round, Saddleback, Sapphire, Stemper, Strawberry, Sunset, Sunshine, Taylor and Virginia.
- Hillsborough River (lower segment)
- Hillsborough River – upper segment (including Crystal Spring)
- Levy County Lake – Marion
- Peace River (middle segment)
- Peace River (upper segment – "low" minimum flows)
- Northern Tampa Bay – 41 Wetland sites
- Northern Tampa Bay – 7 Wells – Floridan Aquifer/Saltwater Intrusion
- Pasco County Lakes – Bell, Big Fish, Bird, Buddy, Camp, Clear, Green, Hancock, Iola, Jessamine, King, King [East], Linda, Middle, Moon, Padgett, Parker aka Ann, Pasadena, Pasco, Pierce, unnamed #22 aka Loyce
- Polk County Lakes – Annie, Bonnie, Clinch, Crooked, Dinner, Eagle, Lee, Mabel, McLeod, Parker, Starr, Venus, and Wales
- Myakka River (upper freshwater segment)
- Sulphur Springs (Hillsborough County)
- Sumter County Lakes – Big Gant, Black, Deaton, Miona, Okahumpka and Panasoffkee
- SWUCA – Floridan Aquifer
- Tampa Bypass Canal
- Weekiwachee River System and Springs
(includes Weeki Wachee, Jenkins Creek, Salt, Little Weeki Wachee and Mud River springs)

2009

- Anclote River System
- Dona Bay (Cow Pen Slough/Canal)
- Polk County Lake – Hancock (S08-T29S-R25E)
- Lower Peace River

2010

- Chassahowitzka River System and Springs (includes Chassahowitzka Main, Chassahowitzka #1, Crab Creek, Potter and Ruth and Blind Spring)
- Gum Springs Group
- Hillsborough County Lakes – Raleigh (S27-T27S-R17E), Rogers (S27-T27S-R17E), Starvation (S21-T27S-R18E), and Wimauma (S09-T32S-R20E)
- Homosassa River System and Spring (includes Hidden River Springs 1 and 2)
- Little Manatee River
- Lower Myakka River System (Myakkahatchee Creek, Deer Prairie Creek and Blackburn Canal)
- Manatee River System (Braden River Estuary)
- Northern Tampa Bay – Phase II
- Polk County Lakes – Crystal (S02-T30S-R27E) and North Lake Wales (S01-T30S-R27E)
- Upper and Middle Withlacoochee River System (Green Swamp)
- Rainbow Springs (includes Bubbling and Waterfall Springs)
- Shell Creek Estuary

2011

- Brooker Creek
- Crystal River System and Kings Bay Spring
- Hillsborough County Lakes – Carroll (S15-T28S-R18E) and Hooker (S12-T29S-R20E)
- Lower Withlacoochee River System
- Marion County Lakes – Bonable (S31-T15S-R18E), Little Bonable (S30-T15S-R18E), and Tiger (S32-T15S-R18E)
- Pithlachascotee River System
- Polk County Lake – Lowery (S14-T27S-R26E)
- Upper Peace River "Middle" and "High" Minimum Flows

2012

- Charlie Creek
- Horse Creek
- North Prong Alafia River
- South Prong Alafia River
- Polk County Lakes – Amoret (S24-T30S-R27E), Aurora (S13-T30S-R28E), Bonnet (S14-T28S-R23E), Easy (S19-T30S-R28E), Effie (S03-T30S-R27E), Little Aurora (S13-T30-R28E), and Josephine (S13-T30S-R27E)
- Hillsborough County Lakes – Kell (S01-T27S-R18E), Keene (S07-T27S-R19E), and Hanna (S18-T27S-R19E)

2013

- Prairie Creek
- Shell Creek (freshwater segment)
- Hernando County Lakes – Tooke (S13-T22S-R17E) and Whitehurst (S17-T22-R18E)

2014

- Cypress Creek

All spring, freshwater river segment and estuarine MFLs will be submitted for voluntary scientific peer review.

Section-Township-Range (S-T-R) information is listed for lakes scheduled for minimum levels development to assist in locating individual water bodies and to avoid potential confusion with lakes that have the same or similar name. Similar information is provided for lakes with adopted minimum levels in Table 8-2, Rule 40D-8.624(12) of the Florida Administrative Code.

Notes: Changes being proposed to the MFLs List are attributable to the following:

- (1) Lake Wimauma – An agreed upon study to examine the possible effects of drainage and sink hole development on lake levels for this lake is not yet complete, and as a result we have moved this lake from 2009 to 2010 on the proposed priority list.
- (2) Lakes Raleigh, Rogers and Starvation – delayed pending development of an acceptably calibrated hydrologic model needed to evaluate the effects of structural alterations and changes to the water budgets of the subject lakes.
- (3) Chassahowitzka River and Springs (including Blind Spring), Homosassa River and Springs, Little Manatee, Lower Myakka River System, Manatee River – it is anticipated that the lower Myakka and Chassahowitzka MFLs documents will be submitted for peer review in 2009; however, these MFLs will not be adopted before the calendar year is out, and have, therefore, moved these water bodies into the 2010 timeframe. Draft MFL reports on the Manatee, Little Manatee, and Homosassa Rivers are behind schedule, and these water bodies have been moved into 2010 as well.
- (4) Shell Creek – delayed pending development of a recovery strategy for this waterbody.
- (5) Upper and Middle Withlacoochee River System – delayed due to extreme low water conditions over the last several years; due to prolonged drought data collection under mid- and high-flows has not been possible.
- (6) Rainbow River – delayed due to several factors: low flow conditions and difficulty in adequately calibrating HEC-RAS model.
- (7) Crystal River System and Kings Bay Spring and Pithlachascotee River System – the need to complete other minimum flows in 2010 will affect the overall MFL timeline, thus these waterbodies will be moved into 2011 to allow sufficient time to complete these MFLs reports
- (8) Addition of Year 2014 – Beginning in 2004, the District added specific waterbodies for a fourth and fifth year. This enables staff to begin data collection earlier in the MFLs process for those waterbodies that require a greater planning and budgeting horizon, and would make unforeseeable hydrologic events less of an obstacle in developing MFLs.